GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
Net Neutrality
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised policy on Net neutrality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the present status thereof; and

(d) the comments of stakeholders thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had constituted a committee in Jan, 2015 to recommend overall policy, regulatory and technical responses to Net Neutrality. The report of the committee has been placed in public domain.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on "Regulatory framework for Over-The-Top services" on 27th March, 2015, which, inter alia, covered issues related to net neutrality. TRAI has received a large number of comments in response to the consultation paper and related recommendations of TRAI are awaited.

In addition, TRAI had issued a separate consultation paper on differential pricing for data services, an important aspect of net neutrality, on 09.12.2015, inviting comments of stakeholders. Subsequently, on 08.02.2016, TRAI has issued "Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services regulations, 2016", which, inter alia, prohibits any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content.

Government policy on Net Neutrality shall be finalized after taking into account recommendations of committee constituted by Department of Telecommunications and recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and other inputs to the Government. TRAI recommendations on the issue are awaited, whereupon the Government will take a final view.